

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on September 15, 2009. Claims 72-123, 125-145 and 152-161 are currently pending with Claims 72, 89, 106, 119, 137, and 152 being recited in independent form. By the present Amendment, Claims 86, 119, 123, 125 and 152 having been amended and Claim 124 has been cancelled.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 72-118, 137-145 and 152-161. Applicants also gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 124 and 125 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have cancelled dependent Claim 124 and have amended independent Claim 119 to include the limitations of dependent Claim 124. Claim 125 depends from independent Claim 119, and therefore, dependent Claim 125 is in condition for allowance for at least its dependency from independent Claim 119.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 102

Claims 119-123 and 126-136 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Germain et al. (United States Patent No. 7,031,125).

Independent Claim 119 has been amended to recite, as mentioned above, the claim language of cancelled dependent Claim 124. In particular, Claim 119 has been amended to recite “at least one movable bridge comprising a first finger and a second finger, wherein the first finger is movable to electrically engage the second pair of electrical conductors and the second finger is movable to electrically engage the third pair of electrical conductors.” It is respectfully submitted, as acknowledged by the Examiner, that Germain et al. does not disclose or suggest the

features set forth by Applicants' claim language. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection with respect to independent Claim 119 is respectfully requested.

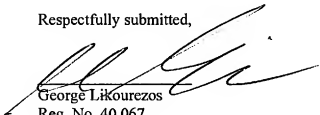
Claims 120-123 and 126-136 depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claim 119. Therefore, these claims contain all of the limitations of independent Claim 119 and are patentable for at least the reasons presented above regarding the patentability of Claim 119. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection with respect to Claims 120-123 and 126-136.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 72-123, 125-145 and 152-161, are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



George Likourezos
Reg. No. 40,067
Attorney for Applicants

Carter, DeLuca, Farrell & Schmidt, LLP
445 Broad Hollow Rd., Suite 420
Melville, New York 11747
Tel.: (631) 501-5700 x 5706
Fax: (631) 501-3526